# SECOND REGULAR SESSION [PERFECTED]

## **HOUSE BILL NO. 2325**

#### 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4676H.01P

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DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

### AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.2700, 160.2705, and 167.903, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seven new sections relating to professional development.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 160.2700, 160.2705, and 167.903, RSMo, are repealed and seven new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 160.565, 160.2700, 160.2705,

- 3 167.903, 167.907, 167.908, and 173.831, to read as follows:
  - 160.565. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Extended Learning Opportunities Act".
  - 2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:
- 4 (1) "Extended learning opportunity", an out-of-classroom learning experience 5 that is approved by the state board of education, a school board, or a charter school and 6 that provides a student with:
- 7 (a) Enrichment opportunities;
- 8 (b) Career readiness or employability skills opportunities including, but not 9 limited to, internships; preapprenticeships; or apprenticeships; or
  - (c) Any other approved educational opportunity;
- 11 (2) "Parent", a student's parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of such student;
- 13 (3) "Student", any child attending an elementary or secondary public school in 14 grades kindergarten through twelve.
- 3. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, the state board of education and each local school board shall routinely inform students and parents of the ability for students to earn credit for participating in extended learning opportunities. Employees of the

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

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state board of education and public schools may assist students and parents in completing enrollment processes required for participating in approved extended learning opportunities. No student or parent shall be required to obtain permission from the student's school district or charter school to enroll in an extended learning opportunity. Before participating in any extended learning opportunity, the student and at least one parent shall sign an agreement detailing all program requirements in a form developed by the state board of education.

- 4. An extended learning opportunity shall count as a credit toward graduation requirements and the achievement of applicable state standards for students. To receive credit, a student shall submit a written request for credit and proof of successful completion of the extended learning opportunity to a designated administrator of the school the student attends.
- 5. The state board of education shall adopt, and each local school district shall distribute and implement, extended learning opportunities policies that provide all of the following:
- 33 (1) An application process for accepting and approving extended learning opportunities offered for credit from outside entities;
  - (2) A list of entities that are eligible to submit applications to offer extended learning opportunities including, but not limited to:
    - (a) Nonprofit organizations;
    - (b) Businesses with established locations;
    - (c) Trade associations: and
- 40 (d) The Armed Forces of the United States, subject to applicable age 41 requirements;
  - (3) A process for students and parents to request credit;
  - (4) Criteria that school districts and charter schools shall use to determine whether a proposed extended learning opportunity shall be approved; and
  - (5) Criteria that school districts and charter schools shall use to award a certificate of completion and credit for completing an extended learning opportunity including, but not limited to, allowing a student to demonstrate competencies through performance-based assessments and other methods independent of instructional time and credit hours.
  - 6. An entity approved by the state board of education to offer an extended learning opportunity shall be automatically qualified to offer that extended learning opportunity to all school districts and charter schools.
  - 7. A student who successfully completes an approved extended learning opportunity and satisfies criteria for the award of a certification of completion and

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credit under subdivision (5) of subsection 5 of this section shall be considered to have completed all required coursework for the particular course. In an extended learning opportunity that satisfies all required coursework for a high school course, the student shall also be considered to have satisfied the equivalent number of credits toward the student's graduation requirements.

- 8. Any policy or procedure adopted by the state board of education, a school board, or a charter school for participating in an extended learning opportunity shall provide every student an equal opportunity to participate and shall satisfy established timelines and requirements for purposes of transcribing credits and state reporting.
- 9. The state board of education may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2022, shall be invalid and void.

160.2700. For purposes of sections 160.2700 to 160.2725, "adult high school" means a school that:

- 3 (1) Is for individuals who do not have a high school diploma and who are twenty-one 4 years of age or older;
  - (2) Offers an industry certification program or programs and a high school diploma in a manner that allows students to earn a diploma at the same time that they earn an industry certification;
- 8 (3) Offers [on-site] child care for children of enrolled students attending the school; 9 and
  - (4) Is not eligible to receive funding under section 160.415 or 163.031.
- 160.2705. 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize before January 1, 2018, a Missouri-based nonprofit organization meeting the criteria under subsection 2 of this section to establish and operate four adult high schools, with:
  - (1) One adult high school to be located in a city not within a county;
- 5 (2) One adult high school to be located in a county of the third classification without a 6 township form of government and with more than forty-one thousand but fewer than forty-7 five thousand inhabitants or a county contiguous to that county;

8 (3) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first classification with 9 more than two hundred sixty thousand but fewer than three hundred thousand inhabitants or a 10 county contiguous to that county; and

- (4) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first classification with more than one hundred fifty thousand but fewer than two hundred thousand inhabitants.
- 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall grant the authorization described under subsection 1 of this section based on a bid process conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations governing purchasing through the office of administration. The successful bidder shall:
- (1) Demonstrate the ability to establish, within twenty-one months of the receipt of the authorization, four adult high schools offering high school diplomas, an industry certification program or programs, and [on-site] child care for children of the students attending the high schools;
- (2) Commit at least two million dollars in investment for the purpose of establishing the necessary infrastructure to operate four adult high schools;
- (3) Demonstrate substantial and positive experience in providing services, including industry certifications and job placement services, to adults twenty-one years of age or older whose educational and training opportunities have been limited by educational disadvantages, disabilities, homelessness, criminal history, or similar circumstances;
- (4) Establish a partnership with a state-supported postsecondary education institution or more than one such partnership, if a partnership or partnerships are necessary in order to meet the requirements for an adult high school;
- (5) Establish a comprehensive plan that sets forth how the adult high schools will help address the need for a sufficiently trained workforce in the surrounding region for each adult high school;
- (6) Establish partnerships and strategies for engaging the community and business leaders in carrying out the goals of each adult high school;
- (7) Establish the ability to meet quality standards through certified teachers and programs that support each student in [his or her] such student's goal to find a more rewarding job;
- (8) Establish a plan for assisting students in overcoming barriers to educational success including, but not limited to, educational disadvantages, homelessness, criminal history, disability, including learning disability such as dyslexia, and similar circumstances;
- (9) Establish a process for determining outcomes of the adult high school, including outcomes related to a student's ability to find a more rewarding job through the attainment of a high school diploma and job training and certification; and
  - (10) Bids shall not include an administrative fee greater than ten percent.

3. (1) The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish academic requirements for students to obtain high school diplomas.

- (2) Requirements for a high school diploma shall be based on an adult student's prior high school achievement and the remaining credits and coursework that would be necessary for the student to receive a high school diploma if [he or she] such student were in a traditional high school setting. The adult student shall meet the requirements with the same level of academic rigor as would otherwise be necessary to attain such credits.
- (3) The adult high school authorized under this section shall award high school diplomas to students who successfully meet the established academic requirements. The adult high school authorized under this section shall confer the diploma as though the student earned the diploma at a traditional high school. The diploma shall have no differentiating marks, titles, or other symbols.
- (4) Students at adult high schools may complete required coursework at their own pace and as available through the adult high school. They shall not be required to satisfy any specific number of class minutes. The adult high school may also make classes available to students online as may be appropriate. However, students shall not complete the majority of instruction of the school's curriculum online or through remote instruction. For the purposes of this subsection, synchronous instruction connecting students to a live class conducted in a Missouri adult high school shall be treated the same as in-person instruction.
- (5) The department of elementary and secondary education shall not create additional regulations or burdens on the adult high school or the students attending the adult high schools beyond certifying necessary credits and ensuring that students have sufficiently mastered the subject matter to make them eligible for credit.
- 4. An adult high school shall be deemed a "secondary school system" for the purposes of subdivision (15) of subsection 1 of section 210.211.
- establish a process by which each student prior to [his or her] the student's ninth grade year at a public school, including a charter school, [may] shall develop with help from the student's parent or guardian and the school's guidance counselors [a personal] an individual career and academic plan [of study], which shall be reviewed [regularly, as needed] annually by school personnel and the student's parent or guardian and updated based upon the needs of the student. Each plan shall present a sequence of courses and experiences that conclude with the student reaching [his or her] the student's postsecondary goals, with implementation of the plan of study transferring to the program of postsecondary education or training upon the student's high school graduation. The plan shall include, but not be limited to:
  - (1) Requirements for graduation from the school district or charter school;

13 (2) Career or postsecondary goals;

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- 14 (3) Coursework or program of study related to career and postsecondary goals, which 15 shall include, if relevant, opportunities that the district or school may not directly offer;
  - (4) Grade-appropriate and career-related experiences, as outlined in the grade-level expectations of the Missouri comprehensive guidance program; and
- (5) Student assessments, interest inventories, or academic results needed to develop, 19 review, and revise the personal plan of study, which shall include, if relevant, assessments, 20 inventories, or academic results that the school district or charter school may not offer.
- 21 2. Each school district shall adopt a policy to permit the waiver of the requirements of 22 this section for any student with a disability if recommended by the student's IEP committee. For purposes of this subsection, "IEP" means individualized education program. 23
  - 3. Prior to the completion of the second semester of the student's twelfth-grade year, each student shall include, as part of the student's individual career and academic plan, a declaration of the student's postsecondary plans including, but not limited to, the following:
    - (1) Confirmation of employment upon graduation;
- 29 Acceptance to an institution of higher education, whether a two-year 30 institution or a four-year institution;
- Acceptance to participate in a vocational, technical, or other training 32 program designed to prepare the student for employment; or
  - (4) Commitment to enlist in the Armed Forces of the United States.
- 167.907. 1. No student shall receive a certificate of graduation from any public school or charter school unless the student has completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, as maintained by the United States Department of 4 Education.
- 5 2. A student shall be exempt from the requirement to complete or submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid under subsection 1 of this section if such student submits to the student's school:
  - (1) Written confirmation of a commitment to enlist in the Armed Forces of the United States; or
- 10 (2) A written document or form, signed by the student's parent or guardian, attesting that the student understands what the application is and has chosen not to file 11 12 such application.
- 13 3. After a student makes reasonable efforts to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid under subsection 1 of this section, the superintendent or superintendent's designee shall exempt such student from the requirement to 15

16 complete or submit the application if such student is unable to complete the application

17 because of extenuating circumstances.

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- 4. This section shall apply beginning July 1, 2023.
- 167.908. 1. The department of higher education and workforce development shall, by rule, establish a procedure for providing the means and capability for high school students enrolled in career and technical education programs described in section 170.029 to complete an application for aid through the Employment and Training Administration of the United States Department of Labor under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The department shall work with school districts that deliver career and technical education programs to educate students on the value of the aid that is available to students through the federal Workforce Innovation and
  - 2. To accomplish the purposes of subsection 1 of this section, the department shall ensure that the following percentages of all department of elementary and secondary education area career centers that deliver career and technical education programs have the means and capability for students at such schools to complete an application for aid through the Employment and Training Administration of the United States Department of Labor under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act:
- 17 (1) For the 2022-23 school year, fifty percent;
- 18 (2) For the 2023-24 school year, seventy percent;
- 19 (3) For the 2024-25 school year, ninety percent; and
- 20 (4) For the 2025-26 school year and every school year thereafter, one hundred 21 percent.

#### 173.831. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

- 2 (1) "Academic skill intake assessment", a criterion-referenced assessment of numeracy and literacy skills with high reliability and validity as determined by third-party research;
- (2) "Accredited", holding an active accreditation from one of the seven United States regional accreditors including, but not limited to, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the Higher Learning Commission, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, as well as any successor entities or consolidations of the above including, but not limited to,
- 12 AdvancEd or Cognia;

13 (3) "Adult dropout recovery services", includes, but is not limited to, sourcing, 14 recruitment, and engagement of eligible students, learning plan development, active 15 teaching, and proactive coaching and mentoring, resulting in an accredited high school 16 diploma;

- (4) "Approved program provider", a public, not-for-profit, or other entity that meets the requirements of subdivision (2) of subsection 3 of this section or any consortium of such entities;
- (5) "Average cost per graduate", the amount of the total program funding reimbursed to an approved program provider for each cohort during the period of time from the beginning of the same cohort through the subsequent twelve months after the close of the same cohort, divided by the total number of students who graduated from the same cohort within twelve months after the close of the same cohort;
- (6) "Career pathways coursework", one or more courses that align with the skill needs of industries in the economy of the state or region that help an individual enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster;
- (7) "Career placement services", services designed to assist students in obtaining employment, such as career interest self-assessments and job search skills such as resume development and mock interviews;
- (8) "Coaching", proactive communication between the approved program provider and the student related to the student's pace and progress through the student's learning plan;
- (9) "Cohort", students who enter the program between July 1 and June 30 of each program year;
  - (10) "Department", the department of elementary and secondary education;
- (11) "Employability skills certification", a certificate earned by demonstrating professional nontechnical skills through assessment, portfolio, or observation;
- (12) "Graduate", a student who has successfully completed all of the state and approved program provider requirements in order to obtain a high school diploma;
- (13) "Graduation rate", the total number of graduates from a cohort who graduated within twelve months after the close of the cohort divided by the total number of students included in the same cohort;
- 44 (14) "Graduation requirements", course and credit requirements for the 45 approved program provider's accredited high school diploma;
  - (15) "High school diploma", a diploma issued by an accredited institution;
  - (16) "Industry-recognized credential", an education-related credential or work-related credential that verifies an individual's qualification or competence issued by a third party with the relevant authority to issue such credential;

- 50 (17) "Learning plan", a documented plan for courses or credits needed for each individual in order to complete program and approved program provider graduation requirements;
  - (18) "Mentoring", a direct relationship between a coach and a student to facilitate the completion of the student's learning plan designed to prepare the student to succeed in the program and the student's future endeavors;
  - (19) "Milestones", objective measures of progress for which payment is made to an approved program provider under this section such as earned units of high school credit, attainment of an employability skills certificate, attainment of an industry-recognized credential, attainment of a technical skills assessment, and attainment of an accredited high school diploma;
    - (20) "Program", the workforce diploma program established in this section;
  - (21) "Request for qualifications", a request for interested potential program providers to submit evidence that they meet the qualifications established in subsection 3 of this section;
  - (22) "Stackable credential", a third party credential that is part of a sequence of credentials that can be accumulated over time to build up an individual's qualifications to advance along a career pathway;
  - (23) "Student", a participant in the program established in this section who is twenty-one years of age or older, who is a resident of Missouri, and who has not yet earned a high school diploma;
  - (24) "Technical Skills Assessment", a criterion-referenced assessment of an individual's skills required for an entry-level career or additional training in a technical field;
  - (25) "Transcript evaluation", a documented summary of credits earned in previous public or private accredited high schools compared with the program and approved program provider graduation requirements;
  - (26) "Unit of high school credit", credit awarded based on a student's demonstration that the student has successfully met the content expectations for the credit area as defined by subject area standards, expectations, or guidelines.
  - 2. There is hereby established the "Workforce Diploma Program" within the department of elementary and secondary education to assist students with obtaining a high school diploma and developing employability and career technical skills. The program may be delivered in campus-based, blended, or online modalities.
  - 3. (1) Before September 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the department shall issue a request for qualifications for interested program providers to become approved program providers and participate in the program.

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- 87 (2) Each approved program provider shall meet all of the following 88 qualifications:
  - (a) Be an accredited high school diploma-granting entity;
- 90 **(b)** Have a minimum of two years of experience providing adult dropout 91 recovery services;
- 92 (c) Provide academic skill intake assessments and transcript evaluations to each 93 student. Such academic skill intake assessments may be administered in person or 94 online;
  - (d) Develop a learning plan for each student that integrates graduation requirements and career goals;
- 97 (e) Provide a course catalog that includes all courses necessary to meet 98 graduation requirements;
  - (f) Offer remediation opportunities in literacy and numeracy, as applicable;
  - (g) Offer employability skills certification, as applicable;
  - (h) Offer career pathways coursework, as applicable;
- 102 (i) Ability to provide preparation for industry-recognized credentials or 103 stackable credentials, a technical skills assessment, or a combination thereof; and
  - (j) Offer career placement services, as applicable.
  - (3) Upon confirmation by the department that an interested program provider meets all of the qualifications listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection, an interested program provider shall become an approved program provider.
  - 4. (1) The department shall announce the approved program providers before October sixteenth annually, with authorization for the approved program providers to begin enrolling students before November fifteenth annually.
  - (2) Approved program providers shall maintain approval without reapplying annually if the approved program provider has not been removed from the approved program provider list under this section.
- 5. All approved program providers shall comply with requirements as provided by the department to ensure:
- 116 **(1)** An accurate accounting of a student's accumulated credits toward a high school diploma;
- 118 **(2)** An accurate accounting of credits necessary to complete a high school 119 diploma; and
- 120 (3) The provision of coursework aligned to the academic performance standards 121 of the state.

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6. (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the department shall pay an amount as set by the department to approved program providers for the following milestones provided by the approved program provider:

- (a) Completion of each half unit of high school credit;
- (b) Attainment of an employability skills certification;
- 127 (c) Attainment of an industry-recognized credential, technical skills assessment, 128 or stackable credential requiring no more than fifty hours of training;
  - (d) Attainment of an industry-recognized credential or stackable credential requiring at least fifty-one but no more than one hundred hours of training;
  - (e) Attainment of an industry-recognized credential or stackable credential requiring more than one hundred hours of training; and
    - (f) Attainment of an accredited high school diploma.
  - (2) No approved program provider shall receive funding for a student under this section if the approved program provider receives federal or state funding or private tuition for that student. No approved program provider shall charge student fees of any kind including, but not limited to, textbook fees, tuition fees, lab fees, or participation fees unless the student chooses to obtain additional education offered by the approved program provider that is not included in the state-funded program.
  - (3) Payments made under this subsection shall be subject to an appropriation made to the department for such purposes.
  - 7. (1) Approved program providers shall submit monthly invoices to the department before the eleventh calendar day of each month for milestones met in the previous calendar month.
  - (2) The department shall pay approved program providers in the order in which invoices are submitted until all available funds are exhausted.
  - (3) The department shall provide a written update to approved program providers by the last calendar day of each month. The update shall include the aggregate total dollars that have been paid to approved program providers to date and the estimated number of enrollments still available for the program year.
  - 8. Before July sixteenth of each year, each provider shall report the following metrics to the department for each individual cohort, on a cohort-by-cohort basis:
    - (1) The total number of students who have been funded through the program;
    - (2) The total number of credits earned;
- 155 (3) The total number of employability skills certifications issued;
- 156 (4) The total number of industry-recognized credentials, stackable credentials, 157 and technical skills assessments earned for each tier of funding;
  - (5) The total number of graduates;

- 159 (6) The average cost per graduate once the stipulated time to make such a 160 calculation has passed; and
- 161 (7) The graduation rate once the stipulated time to make such a calculation has 162 passed.
  - 9. (1) Before September sixteen of each year, each approved program provider shall conduct and submit to the department the aggregate results of a survey of each individual cohort, on a cohort-by-cohort basis, who graduated from the program of the approved program provider under this section. The survey shall be conducted in the year after the year in which the individuals graduate and the next four consecutive years.
- 169 (5) The survey shall include at least the following data collection elements for each year the survey is conducted:
  - (a) The individual's employment status, including whether the individual is employed full time or part time;
    - (b) The individual's hourly wages;
    - (c) The individual's access to employer-sponsored health care; and
- 175 (d) The individual's postsecondary enrollment status, including whether the 176 individual has completed a postsecondary certificate or degree program.
  - 9. (1) Beginning at the end of the second fiscal year of the program, the department shall review data from each approved program provider to ensure that each is achieving minimum program performance standards including, but not limited to:
    - (a) A minimum fifty percent average graduation rate per cohort; and
    - (b) An average cost per graduate per cohort of seven thousand dollars or less.
  - (2) Any approved program provider that fails to meet the minimum program performance standards described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be placed on probationary status for the remainder of the fiscal year by the department.
  - (3) Any approved program provider that fails to meet the minimum program performance standards described in subdivision (1) of this subsection for two consecutive years shall be removed from the approved program provider list by the department.
  - 10. (1) No approved program provider shall discriminate against a student on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexuality, gender, or age.
  - (2) If an approved program provider determines that a student would be better served by participating in a different program, the approved program provider may refer the student to the state's adult basic education services.
- **11.** (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Workforce Diploma 195 Program Fund", which shall consist of any grants, gifts, donations, bequests, or moneys

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196 appropriated under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve 198 disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys 199 in the fund shall be used solely as provided in this section.

- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.
- (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.
- 12. The director of the department may promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2022, shall be invalid and void.
  - 13. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:
- (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall automatically sunset six years after the effective date of this section unless reauthorized by an act of the general assembly; and
- (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section shall automatically sunset twelve years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this section; and
- This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this 224 section is sunset.

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